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# THE OBSERVATOR.

*A freſh Charge againſt the* Aſſa-Fœtida Juſtice. *A Saying of a Parſon in his Sermon on the* 22d *of the laſt Month. Of the Endeavours of the* High-Flying Prieſthood *to biaſs Elections. A Story of a Knight and a Parſon in* Kent. *A Relation from the County of* Surrey. *Of the* High-Flyers *Reflection on Her Majeſty. An Account from* Northampton. *A Letter which the* Country-man *found on the Road.*

From Saturday May the 5th, to Wednesday May the 9th, 1705.

*Country-m.* MASTER *Obſervator*, you talk'd a great deal about the *Aſſa-Fœtida Calves-Head Juſtice* the laſt time we met in Conſult: Pray now ſuffer me to ſay ſomething of him?

*Obſ.* Can'ſt ſay any good of him?

*Country-m.* Not one Word upon my Reputation, but a Friend of mine told me that not long ſince he being in Company that were ſpeaking of ſome Law made in King *William*'s Time, Mr. *Juſtice* ſpoke to this Effect, *That he had no Regard to the Laws made in that Reign, becauſe he look'd upon King* William *as a Uſurper.* Now is this Man fit to be a *Juſtice of the Peace?*

*Obſ.* That's a Queſtion wide of the Caſe. The Queſtion is whether he be a fit Man for a Member of Parliament? We can't help ſuch Mens being *Juſtices of the Peace*, but we can prevent their being Members of *Parliament.* It could be wiſh'd we had no ſuch Men in the *Peace* or *Lieutenancy* to Influence Elections; but the only way to ſet ſuch things right, will be to get good Members into the *Houſe of Commons.*

He that reckons King *William* a Uſurper, will ſay the ſame of Queen *Ann*, for we find 'em both in the ſame Act of *Settlement*, and coming to the Crown by the ſame *Law*, the ſame People that brought Her Majeſty to the Throne, muſt ſupport Her in't: All Governments are ſupported by that *Original Power* on which it was Founded; we find that the *High-Flyers* and *Tories* will ſupport no Prince but a Tyrant, and their *Inſolent Behaviour* to Her Majeſty is a loud Alarm to all Her Loving Subjects, to chuſe ſuch Members as are in Her Majeſties Intereſt, and ſuch as will ſecure the *Peace* of the Kingdom.

*Country-m.* I proteſt, Sir, I am aſham'd to ſpeak (I wiſh I were not afraid too) what theſe Wicked Wretches ſay of Her Majeſty, and that meerly on Account of her *Royal Vertues.*

*Obſ.* 'Tis none of my Buſineſs; I wiſh Her Majeſty a Million of Bleſſings, but I can aſſiſt Her no farther than with my Pen, which on all occaſions I have us'd in Her Service. But indeed the *Jacobites* and *High-Flyers* have offered ſuch *Indignities* to Her *Royal Perſon* and *Government*, that Her *Loyal Subjects* muſt needs abominate them.

Tho' the Queen has been ſo very Charitable to the *Inferiour Clergy*, in giving them Her Tenths, for which indeed they Addreſs'd Her in Terms Extraordinary, yet to ſhow their *Gratitude*, and that the *Avarice* of the *Clergy* can never be ſatisfied, the Men in Black are the chief Perſons that Traduce Her and oppoſe the Elections of ſuch as are *Sincerely* in Her Intereſt.

A Parſon of a Place near *Barnet*, in his Morning Sermon, the 22d of laſt Month, greatly lamenting the Miſerable State of the *Church*, ſaid. *That none were preferr'd in* Church *or* State, *but thoſe that were either* Scepticks, Deiſts, *or* Diſſenters.

I cannot but admire at the Impudence of ſome of the *Clergy*, who, contrary to the Example of the Fathers of our *Church*, do intermeddle with our Elections, who tho' they hold their Livings by no other Tenure, than the Poor of the Land hold their *Alms-Houſes*, are as *Imperious* as if they were the Lords of the *Soil.* But more I wonder at the *Degeneracy* of *Engliſhmen*, who are Govern'd in their Elections by theſe *Freebooters* of *Divinity*, that Rob Men of their *Underſtandings*, that *Idolize* ſuch *Contemptible Creatures*, as our *Noble Progenitors* would have diſdain'd to have ſet with the *Dogs* of their *Flock.*

*Country-m.* Maſter, I am afraid you are miſtaken in the Caſe; The Parſons don't Influence every Body, but the Topping *Dons* of the *Tacking Party* do Influence them; for look'ye, here's Parſon *Smith*, he can go every Day to Sir *John*'s, where after he has mumbl'd a ſhort *Grace* he ſits down at the lower End of the Table, where he fills his Paunch till he's forc'd to unloſe his *Cirſingle*; after Dinner he goes into the Cellar, where *Cheat-all* the Steward ſwills him with Wine; then the Parſon is to make Intereſt for Sir *John*, and not to Abſolve the Peoples Sins if they don't Vote for him; and if he makes a Swinging Intereſt then he is to have the Preſentation to the next better Living, and ſhall Marry Mrs. *Abigail* the Waiting-Maid after Sir *John* has opened her *Oyſter.*

*Obſ.* You talk Madly, *Country-man*, ſure the Topping *High-Flyers* don't uſe their *Clergy* at that Rate?

*Country-m.* Maſter, they value 'em as a *Shepherd* does his *Dog*, only becauſe they bring the *Sheep* into the *Pen*, and fetch the *Straglers* to their *Intereſt*: Maſter, I will tell you a true Story. There is a certain Doubty Knight in *Kent*, who within leſs than 100 Years, Fuddl'd one Parſon *J——s* at his Houſe, and the Parſon being Dead Drunk, he laid him on the Table, pull'd down his Breeches, ſtuck a Candle in his A—— and lighted his Pipe at it, whereupon the Parſon is ever ſince called the *Candleſtick* of the *Church.* Now, Maſter, this Knight is a Woundy *High-Flyer*, and therefore it is ſtrange that he ſhould ſo groſly abuſe the Parſon; if another Body had done it, one might ha' thought it had been done out of *Charity*, that ſince the Eyes in the Parſons Head were *Obnubilated* with Drink, the Light was ſtuck into his *Blind Cheeks* to ſhow him his way Home with his *But-End* foremoſt.

*Obſ.* This is a fine Story indeed. I'll tell you another from a Letter I have by me, which was ſent me in *March* laſt. Mr. *W——l* thinking fit to reſign his Intereſt to Mr. *H——y* of *C——e*, made

made a great Feast at *Blechingly*, where were present about 54 *Freeholders*, to whom he made a Speech, and in it Advised them *To chuse Members of Parliament that would stand against the House of Lords, and the* ———, *for they would Ruine the Country.* Said a *High Flying* Parson that was by, *I am against* ———, *because he Lov'd King* William; upon which the major part of the *Freeholders* went away much Disgusted, and Resenting the Affront put on the *Queen*, and the Memory of the Immortal and Glorious King *William*; so that you see there are *Honest Freeholders* in *Surry*, as well as *Honest Burghers* in *Southwark*; who will stand up for *Honest Gentlemen* against *Tackers*, and others that Hate the Queen and Government.

*Country-m.* God Bless 'em; here's a Bumper of *October* to the Good Election of Sir *Richard Onslow*, and Sir *William Scawen*, for that County. But, Master, I find these *High Flyers* and *Tackers* can't help flying in the Face of Majesty it self.

*Obs.* I heard such Words but the other day that I Wish there were some Method taken to stop the Mouths of these *High Flyers*; for indeed their Behaviour is so very Insolent and Scandalous, that the Towel must rub the next time I hear 'em Villifie and Asperse Her Majesty; for I never yet got any Encouragement by complaining of *Abuses* against Her Majesties Person and Government.

They complain'd in part, that Her Majesty had left 'em; Bless me, thought I, did these *Arbitrary Wretches* ever believe Her Majesty to be in their Interest? Did they think She had a mind to Un-Queen Her self, which She must have done had She hearkned to the Councils of *High-Flyers* and *Tackers*: The rest was such abominable Treatment, that none but *Barbarians* could give to a *Regent Queen*, especially to one that Governs with such *Moderation* and *Clemency*, with so much *Justice* and *Equity*, as does our *Glorious*, *Successful* and *Victorious* Queen *ANN*.

I found by the Discourse of those People, they had some new Pike against the Government, and I find by the Letters I receive out of the Country, that the *High-Flyers* and *Tackers* are alike minded towards the Government, with those in *London* and *Westminster*, of which I shall give you an Instance from *Northampton*.

In that City there are two Coffee-Houses followed by two Parties; those few *Jacks* and *Tackers* that are there (and very inconsiderable People too) but more especially the *Black Robe*, have supported a Woman whose Husband is a *Frenchman*, but has left her in keeping a Coffee-House; she's one of no extraordinary Character, but keeps her Coffee-House Table covered with *Dyers News Letter*, the *Rehearsall*, and Papers of that Sortment. This Woman, since King *Williams* Death, and the Queens Happy Accession to the Throne, comes to Church, and to have the better esteem, hath been us'd to Illuminate Her House on the 23d of *April*, the Queens Coronation day, on which she also makes a Cold Treat for her Guests, as she did this last. But so it happened, that her Guests at that time were quite Thunder struck with the News from *Cambridge*, of Sir *John Leak*, and Admiral *Bing's* success, that not a Soul of 'em appear'd, but deferred the Collation every Mothers Son, as if Her Majesty did not deserve as much to have Her Health Drank this 23d of *April*, as on the last, or that they would have rather the mean Repast of a *Rook-Pye*, than a whole *Shovel* full of *Manna*.

I only mention these Stories to let the People of *England* see what sort of Men they are to avoid in their Elections, how necessary it is to chuse Men that heartily Love Her Majesty and Government, and what occasion all Men have to Bless God, that *Tackers* and *High-Flyers* have not stay'd long enough in Power to Ruin both the Queen and Her Subjects.

*Country-m.* Master, Yours is good Advice, and I met with some on the Road, in a Letter which I found, I suppose it is Written by some Honest Citizen, to an Elector of his Acquaintance in the Country; but it having no Superscription, and I not knowing how to send it to the Person intended, I think fit to Print it for every Body, and then perhaps the true Person it was meant for may meet with it. I'll read it to you, and then we'll depart.

My Good Friend,

*I Am, (as you well know) a hearty Lover, and well wisher to this present Government, not Zealous for any Party as such, but for the good of the Nation in General, that our Religion, Liberties, and Properties, which cost our Ancestors so dear to procure, and hand down to us may be preserved; and therefore should be very unwilling to have them betrayed or lost. You know we had like to have Miscarried by the Violence of some Men the last Sessions, sufficiently intimated in our most Gracious Queens Speech at parting, (to which I refer you) and I think it concerns every* Englishman *now to look about him, and see who he chuses to Represent him at this Time, a Juncture that calls for serious Caution and Deliberation, and therefore if we should now Miscarry, indeed it will lye on every Man to Reflect that he did no more to prevent, or so much to procure it, by Voting for such Persons, the* High-Flyers *and* Tackers *I mean, therefore, my dear Friend, if the Old Members were on the right Side,* (viz.) *Of Moderate Healing Principles and Tempers, before you use your utmost Endeavour to get them in again, and let not the Common Argument, by some made use of (saying that such and such have been in a long Time, why should not others now?) prevail upon you; do not put it to the Venture, and make an Experiment at this Juncture. If the Members were on the other side, try and welcome, you have a chance to better the Choice, and take this last Advice which I wish all other Electors would sincerely do, Chuse not for Interest in Trade, Fear, Favour, or Affection, Acquaintance, Neighbourhood, Authoritative Influence, no, nor for Relations sake neither; but for the good of the Nation, Religion, Liberty, Property, (as I said before) and all dear to us, now lying at Stake: Let no other Consideration than this only move you, and then if things should go wrong it will be a Support to you, when you come to Reflect, that you did all in your Power to prevent it, but Matter of Grief and Sorrow if you have had a hand in procuring it by your own Folly and Industry, and even this Advice then you'll think on.*

Farewel.

ALL Persons are desired to send no Accounts to the Author of this Paper, but by the hands of some Gentlemen of his Acquaintance, who will vouch for the Credit of the sender; for as hitherto he has taken care to Publish nothing but what is real Matter of Fact, he designs to continue the same Measures, that the Publick may give the better Credit to his Paper, which is design'd for nothing but the Common Good of the Queen and Realm.

A List of those Worthy Patriots, who to prevent the Church of England from being Undermined by the Occasional Conformists, did, like truly Noble Englishmen, Vote that the Bill to prevent Occasional Conformity might be Tackt to the Land-Tax Bill to secure its passing in the House of Lords; so that this their Zeal does appear (to all Wise Men) as Conspicuous for the Interest, as their Lives are Ornaments to that Church, of which they are Members. *Price* 1*d.* Sold by B. Bragg, in Avemary-Lane.

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